



BLESSING of new machinery

Tui Jack-Ainsley accompanied by other members of Waihi Community Marae joined us on site Tuesday morning of last week to bless three pieces of heavy equipment that have recently arrived on site. We are very fortunate to have the help of Waihi Community Marae members who go out of their way to assist us and do everything possible to fit in with our schedules. Nga mihi ki a koutou katoa.

We bless large pieces of equipment to remove any tapu. The blessing removes anything negative the equipment may have brought with it to site. We don't know what may have happened on or to this piece of equipment prior to us owning it. With the help of kaumatua or kuia, any tapu is removed, making it safe for us to use and ensure it is kept in good health.

Previously, we have also used an Anglican minister to bless machinery prior to its use.

As well as the spiritual and cultural aspects of the blessing, these events also provided us with the opportunity to reflect on how we can all keep ourselves and our workmates safe.

PROJECT Martha

We are continuing our drilling programme for Project Martha. The exploration drill rig located behind the Gold Discovery Centre is investigating the Rex orebody. This rig will be operating until at least the end of the year. An exploration drill rig also returned to the area east of the Cornish Pumphouse last week. It is expected that it will be in this location for about a month. This rig is continuing to investigate areas around and under the open pit as part of Project Martha.

Once we have all of the results from the various drill holes we will be able to develop a comprehensive mine plan and we will then be able to start work on the location of the spiral decline and development drives required to access the orebody.



The drill rig located behind the Gold Discovery centre is targeting the Rex orebody.

Raise Borer AT WORK UNDERGROUND

In the second week of August a raise borer arrived on site from Australia. This machine weighs 32 tonnes, and has been brought on site to bore from the 920 level through to the 800 level to improve ventilation in the Martha underground and also to drill several deep dewatering holes. These jobs are expected to take two months. The vent shaft on Union Hill was constructed using a raise borer.

We are all used to seeing drill rigs which are located on the surface and which drill downwards. The raise borer works by drilling from the bottom.



First a pilot hole is drilled from the top down to the bottom of the planned hole. A drill string is attached to the raise borer at the top. At the bottom a large reamer head is attached to the drill string. This rotating head is then pulled back up towards the raise borer. All the rock and drill cuttings from the reamer head fall to the floor where they are easily removed.

Correnso meeting

The second Correnso Community Meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday 18 September at 4.00pm at the OceanaGold Education Centre on the corner of Moresby Avenue and Savage Road.

These community meetings are held every six months and provide us with the opportunity to explain what we have been doing on site. We also report on environmental results from the previous six months. These meetings also provide a forum for members of the public to ask questions and see information about any topic related to our activities.

Members of Hauraki District Council's regulatory team usually attend those meetings, as do some Waihi Ward members. Although Correnso is the main focus of the meeting members of the wider public are invited to attend.